



EU Strategy on the Rights of the child



March 2021
#EUChildRights
#EUChildGuarantee

Every child in Europe, and everywhere else, should enjoy the same rights and live free from discrimination and intimidation. With a new Strategy on the Rights of the Child, the Commission is addressing persistent and emerging challenges and proposing concrete actions to protect, promote and fulfil children's rights in today's ever-changing world. This Strategy draws on the contributions of over 10,000 children from the EU and beyond.¹

Children say they want to...



...be active citizens and members of democratic societies

*"If not us, then who."
(16 year-old boy, Romania/UK)*



...have an equal start in life

*"School lets you open up to the world and talk to people. School is life."
(child seeking asylum, France)*



...be free from abuse, violence and anxiety

*I wish there were fewer fights and tensions in my family."
(child, Greece)*



...be listened to in legal proceedings

*"Child-friendly justice is a child surrounded by a system in which he/she is protected/listened to/safe."
(17 year-old girl, Romania)*



...have equal access to safe online learning and play

*"I didn't have a computer, the internet didn't reach my village, I didn't have any data and...I had to repeat."
(15 year-old girl, Spain)*

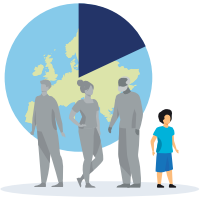


...live a life free from fear and war, everywhere

*"I wish to see my town. Our homes were destroyed, there are no houses standing still anymore. (...) There was nothing here, there were no schools except for tents."
(9 year-old girl, Syria)*

¹ The data presented here, unless indicated otherwise, come from the reports: ["Our Europe, our rights, our future"](#), ["Just with children. Child-friendly justice for all children in Europe"](#) and SOS Children villages - consultation with children in [residential care](#) and [children receiving family strengthening services](#) and the [summary report](#).

The European Commission will:



18.3%
of the EU population
are children

- set up an EU Children's Participation Platform;
- include children as agents of change in the implementation of the Climate Pact and the European Green Deal.



30.3%
of the world population
are children

- set up an EU Children's Participation Platform;
- include children as agents of change in the implementation of the Climate Pact and the European Green Deal.

22.2%

of EU children are at risk
of poverty or social exclusion



- set up a new European Child Guarantee for children in need;
- support efforts towards affordable and accessible healthcare, healthy nutrition, psycho-social support, education and leisure activities.

1/2

of children worldwide
are victims
of violence
each year



- seek to address domestic and gender-based violence, and harmful practices against women and girls;
- strengthen integrated child protection systems.

1/3

of all asylum applications
to the EU in 2020
were children



Out of 119,400,
2,850 were unaccompanied

- support the training of justice professionals on child-friendly justice;
- work with the Council of Europe to implement their 2010 guidelines on child-friendly justice.



33%
of girls

20%
of boys

In the EU
experienced disturbing
content online once
a month in 2020

- step up the fight against online child sexual abuse and make service providers detect and report inappropriate content online;
- adopt an updated Better Internet for Kids Strategy in 2022.

9.6%

of children worldwide
are victims of child labour



- maintain a zero tolerance policy on child labour;
- allocate 10% of humanitarian aid and funding to education in emergencies and protracted crises.